

to the undeveloped cell is small and hard. If this coconut had been planted two seedlings would have been produced.

Photo 1. Cross section of the nut showing the two cells with a thin shell separating the two endosperms.

Photo 2. Showing two enlarged soft 'eyes' corresponding to the two cells, while the third remains small and hard.

The specimen is preserved in the Madras Herbarium, Coimbatore.

Literature.

Qusumbing Eduardo (1926).

Phillip. Agri.: 15, pp. 3-11.

Garden's Bull. 3, pp. 274-279.

Garden's Bull. 4, pp. 78-86.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, K. CHERIAN JACOB,
COIMBATORE.

L.Ag., F.L.S.

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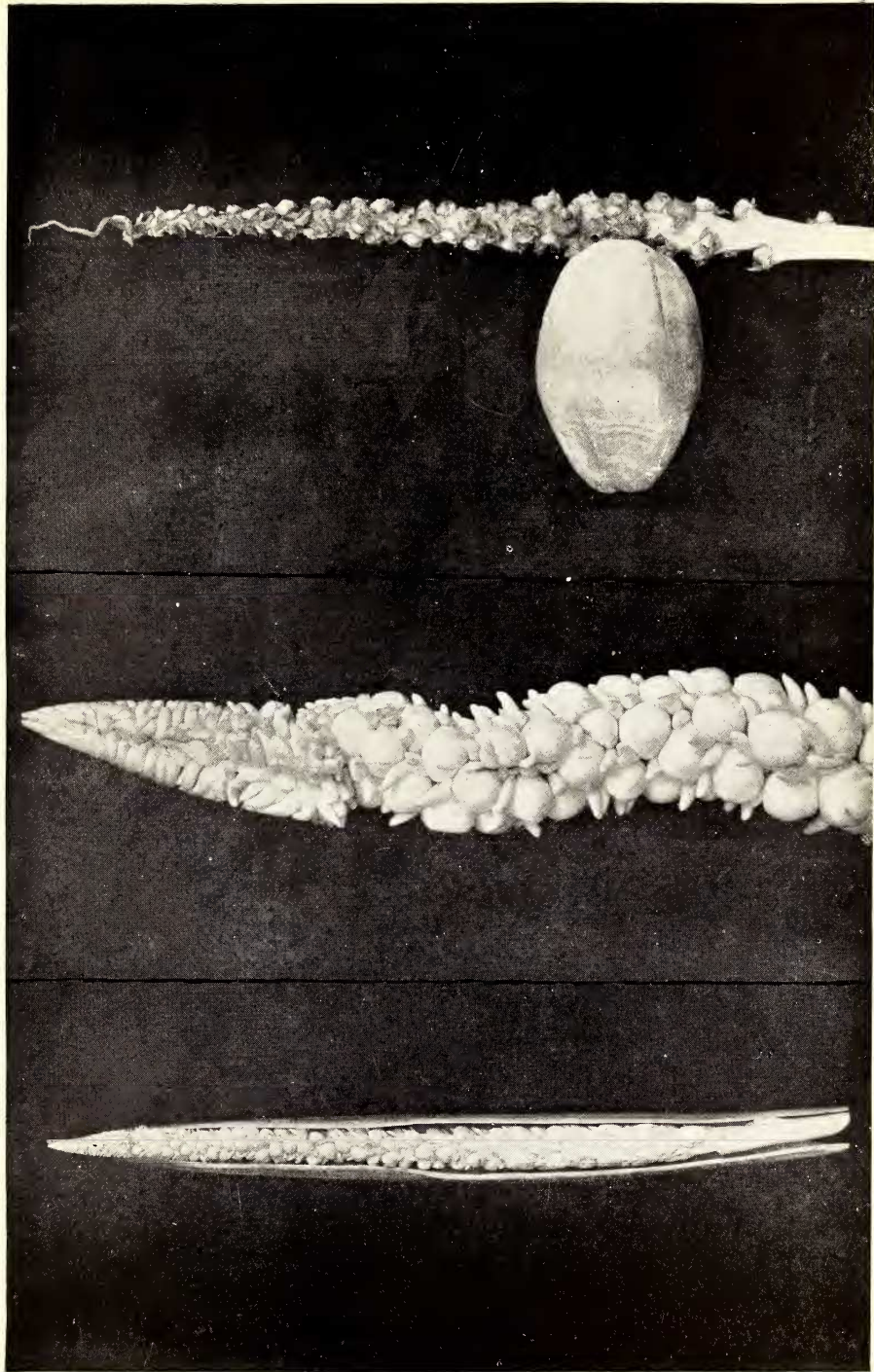
XXIII.—A NEW VARIETY OF COCONUT PALM (*COCOS NUCIFERA* L. VAR. *SPICATA* K. C. JACOB).

(With a plate).

A note on a peculiar coconut tree is published in the *Madras Agricultural Journal*, Vol. v, page 86. Its peculiarity lies in the inflorescence which, unlike that of the ordinary coconut palm, is unbranched. There is a note on the 'suppression of spikelets in coconut spadices' in the *Garden's Bulletin*, Vol. iv, page 81. Here the author mentions that the palms which produce the monstrous inflorescences have the habit of producing such monstrosities many times during the year. Mention is also made by the same author of a side branch which is occasionally found in these monstrous inflorescences.

The present writer had occasion to study palms which produce these monstrous inflorescences in more detail in a garden in Coimbatore. In this garden there are half a dozen such palms. The occurrence of a side branch is noticed in some inflorescences. From the history of these palms, it is noted that the production of this abnormal spike-like inflorescence is not a freak, but a heritable character. Several similar instances are also noted in other parts of this Province. Hence this new type of coconut palm with the spike-like inflorescence is separated as a new variety, *Cocos nucifera* L. var. *spicata* K. C. Jacob. In the light of this knowledge, the description of the spadix of the species, *Cocos nucifera* L. may be altered to 'usually paniced, sometimes spiked'.

On account of the spike-like nature of the panicle, there is not enough room for the development of a large number of nuts. Nevertheless, this variety produces innumerable female flowers (potential nuts), which character may be utilized with advantage by coconut palm breeders.



A.

B.

C.

Inflorescence of *Cocos nucifera* Linn. var. *spicata* K. C. Jacob.
A. Young inflorescence. B. as A, magnified. C. Spike with a coconut.